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NEWS RELEASE

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HELPS YOUNG WOMEN PURSUE EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN HALTON

Women As Career Coaches Program Forges Link Between Industry, Education And Community

BURLINGTON – Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello announced today that the Ontario government is providing funds to help increase young women's awareness of education and career options.

"The Women as Career Coaches program provides young women with the opportunity to meet mentors who will help guide them as they pursue education and career opportunities ," said Pupatello. "By giving these young women access to career coaches, we are setting them on a path that will help them to one day become leaders in Halton and around the province."

The Ontario government is providing $33,000 to fund the Halton Industry Education Council Women as Career Coaches program. M entors representing a wide variety of sectors, such as science and technology, skilled trades, government and business will be matched with 175 young women . The project also allows the Halton Industry Education Council to develop its database of volunteer mentors.

"Young women need role models," said Kelly Hoey, Executive Director of the Halton Industry Education Council. "I applaud the women who have volunteered to be mentors, and I encourage more women in Halton to become involved with this project."

Earlier this month, the McGuinty government launched Leading Women, Building Communities, the first-ever Ontario government award that honours women for exceptional community leadership. MPPs have been invited to nominate candidates for the award in their communities.

"Women as Career Coaches captures the spirit of Leading Women, Building Communities, and it helps make Halton a strong community, now and in the future," said Pupatello. "Our government is determined to give women the opportunity to learn the skills they need to secure good jobs and become economically independent."

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